

**RESTORE ACT
Public Meeting of September 27, 2016**

Attendees: Chris Cowart, School Board Representative, Chairman
John Meeks, Board of County Commissioners, Vice-Chairman
Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative
Rayanne Giddis, Higher Education
Jolie Davis, Citizen Representative
Jack Schofield, Citizen Representative
Richard Streeter, Citizen Representative

Absent: Gail Gold, Tourism Industry Representative

Chairman Cowart opened the Committee meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 3:00 p.m. at the Levy County Court House. Chairman Cowart gave the prayer followed by the Pledge to the Flag. The roll of members was called.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public had no comments.

**RESTORE ACT PROJECTS UPDATE AND
GULF CONSORTIUM UPDATE**

Ms. Tisha Whitehurst advised that Ms. Gail Gold had contacted her and advised she would not be in attendance at the meeting and would be resigning as a member of the Committee.

Ms. Whitehurst prepared an allocation table reflecting the funds that have been distributed but not drawn upon. Mr. Chris Cowart said he had seen a news report where the state of Alabama has bonded their funds.

Ms. Whitehurst said she had emailed the project managers to determine if they had any damages from Hurricane Hermine that would be pertinent to RESTORE Act funds. Ms. Whitehurst said the City of Cedar Key was still assessing damages and currently those damages were about \$375,000.00. Ms. Whitehurst said the damages reported are being repaired and will not affect the application that has been submitted.

Mr. Jack Schofield said he had concerns on funding infrastructure in coastal high hazard areas and the affect of insurance, building codes and FEMA requirements. Mr. Schofield said his concern was putting money into something that could be damaged and the money funding the infrastructure would be lost.

Ms. Whitehurst explained that anytime something is built with federal grant funds there has to adequate insurance and it would have to be replaced as that is a requirement of the grant. Ms. Whitehurst said she would contact Mr. John Stutz at Treasury for more information. There was discussion by the committee on payouts by FEMA and wind hazard policies.

Ms. Whitehurst said she had contacted Mr. Stutz on the performance report and it

is accurate. Ms. Whitehurst said there has not been any draw down of funds and until the County adopts a procurement policy the County can not proceed with the Plan. Ms. Whitehurst said once the Board of County Commissioners adopt a procurement policy then Tetrattech can begin preparing the Plan.

Ms. Whitehurst said ESA Environmental Science Associates have been contracted with by the Gulf Consortium and they will be preparing the plan for the Pot 3 funds for all 23 affected counties who need their services. Comm. John Meeks said Levy County will receive approximately 12.6 million dollars. Comm. Meeks said the County does not have to share the funds but projects should be on a larger scale with possible regional impacts. Comm. Meeks said Wilbur Dean, Ms. Whitehurst and his self will be meeting with them to discuss Levy County's plan.

Ms. Jolie Davis asked if it was possible for some of the projects that have applied for Pot 1 funds to be moved to Pot 3 funds. Comm. Meeks said the funds can not be mixed and projects for Pot 3 funds will have to have state approval. Comm. Meeks said the project would have to be submitted meeting the requirements of Pot 3 funds.

Ms. Whitehurst explained that ESE will be preparing the plans for surrounding affected counties and will be in a position to provide information relating to projects which could possibly be regional plans. Ms. Whitehurst said ESE must meet with each of the 23 counties and then prepare a state expenditure plan.

Comm. Meeks said he would be attending a meeting at Suwannee River Water Management District which will include FWC and trust agencies to learn how to partner their money with our money as leverage to get more projects completed.

Dr. Richard Streeter inquired if there was any discussion continuing on the southern end of the County under Southwest Florida Water Management District coming under the Suwannee River Water Management District. Comm. Meeks said there is still discussion but there is still a split and no request has been made to our legislative representatives to take any action. Comm. Meeks there is concern that the Withlacoochee River and projects in the southern portion of the County would be abandoned.

Ms. Whitehurst said that ESA has requested a theme for the projects using the Pot 3 funds as in environmental, tourism or some other theme. Ms. Whitehurst said they would provide the guidelines and the Committee would manage it.

Mr. Jack Schofield said he didn't know how a theme could be created if the Committee is not officially approved. Comm. Meeks said it was his recommendation that the Committee already is familiar with what is being required by the RESTORE Act and a new group would have to start at the beginning.

Ms. Whitehurst said she provided ESA with the list of who was on the Committee and they were okay with it.

Ms. Whitehurst prepared a spreadsheet providing a blank spreadsheet to the Committee with the Option 3 of funding as many small projects in year one and the three remaining projects larger projects not being funded. The Committee discussed the

difficulties some of the projects would have in spending the money in one year. Ms. Whitehurst said the applicant would have to submit a timeline on expending funds and how the funds would be expended as there is no carry over of the funds.

Comm. Meeks said the Gulf Consortium met and has hired Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. as their counsel. Comm. Meeks said the other information has already been discussed.

Mr. Schofield inquired if the Committee was prepared to submit projects to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Whitehurst said this cannot be done until the multi-year plan is approved and the procurement policy must first be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Leslie Sturmer said the projected time line is April, 2017 for the first scheduled BP payment and then annually thereafter.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meetings of the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, November 15, 2016, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioner's meeting room at the Levy County Court House.

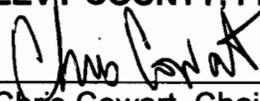
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Hilliard, W.A.R., Inc. Commented that Hurricane Hermine had a drastic impact on Yankeetown. Mr. Hilliard said he encouraged the County to "look outside the box" on the projects using Pot 3 funding.

MINUTES

Ms. Davis moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2016, seconded by Mr. David Pieklik, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

**RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Chris Cowart, Chairman